

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested on the grounds that the amendments and remarks respond to the examiner's "Response to Arguments" and therefore could not have been presented earlier. Entry of this amendment will simplify the issues for an appeal, should an appeal become necessary.

All of the independent claims have been amended to add the statement "so as to maintain an output impedance of said MOS driver circuit within a desired tolerance." Support for that statement can be found on page 28, lines 18 – 22, and throughout the specification in the various embodiments, simulations, and figures.

The examiner would no doubt agree that the method of Biber is not directed to a method of correcting impedance curvature, i.e., a method of maintaining an output impedance of an MOS driver circuit within a desired tolerance. Rather, Biber is directed to a method of impedance matching. See abstract, first line. See also, claim 1 of Biber which recites "a self-adjusting impedance matching driver." Biber does not teach or suggest compensating for changes in the impedance of one transistor by implementing corresponding changes in another transistor so as to maintain an output impedance of an MOS driver circuit within a desired tolerance. Rather, Biber speaks of adding transistors to the primary driver devices 42, 44 so as to change the overall impedance of the circuit.

The primary driver devices 42, 44 have a characteristic impedance equal to the highest anticipated impedance to be presented under normal conditions by load 40. Each of the pairs of devices just described has a preselected characteristic impedance which, *when added in parallel to the impedance of devices 42 and 44, as the case may be, serves to reduce the characteristic impedance of the output stage 32 in a selectable manner.* The addition or omission of the pairs of devices just described, referred to herein as "incremental impedance pairs," or "incremental impedance devices," is controlled by the operation of the set of latches 36 under control of the control logic 38, in a manner which is described below.(emphasis added) (column 3, lines 51 – 64)

Fig. 4 illustrates the different resistances which can be added to the resistance of the main drivers. Thus, it is clear from an examination of Fig. 3, in combination with Fig. 4, that the individual impedance of transistors is not being manipulated so as to maintain an output impedance of an MOS driver circuit within a desired tolerance. Rather, transistors are being added to or subtracted from the output stage so that the overall impedance of the driver can be matched to the load. It is respectfully submitted that Biber neither anticipates nor renders obvious the subject matter of amended independent claims 1, 7, 20, 26, 32, 37, 64, and 65.

Applicant has made a diligent effort to place the instant application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance for claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-9, 11, 13-15, 17-45, 64, and 65 is respectfully requested. If the examiner is of the opinion that the aforementioned claims are not in condition for allowance, the examiner is respectfully requested to contact applicant's attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Edward L. Pencoske
Reg. No. 29,688
JONES DAY
500 Grant Street, Suite 3100
One Mellon Center
Pittsburgh, PA, USA, 15219
(412) 394-9531 (Direct)
(412) 394-7959 (Fax)
Attorneys for Applicant